

Message Text

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41

ACTION EUR-25

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NSCE-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00

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NSAE-00 NSC-10 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01 SCI-06

SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 AECE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6793

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

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USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS PARIS 3756

DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR T/IEP

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TAGS: PFOR/ENRG, FR

SUBJECT: LE MONDE COMMENT ON ENERGY CONFERENCE

SUMMARY: TUESDAY AFTERNOON LE MONDE NEWS REPORT FROM WASHINGTON ON

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ENERGY CONFERENCE EMPHASIZES INTER-EUROPEAN DIFFERENCES AND FRENCH

ISOLATION. EDITORIAL SAME EDITION RELATES CONFERENCE TO GENERAL PROBLEM OF EUROPEAN IDENTITY AND PURPOSE AND CALLS FOR COMMUNITY DISCIPLINE. END SUMMARY.

1. IN FRONT PAGE REPORT TUESDAY AFTERNOON ON ENERGY CONFERENCE, LE MONDE ECONOMIC ANALYST PHILIPPE SIMONNET, WRITING FROM WASHINGTON, SAYS THAT JOBERT'S EFFORTS "TO BLOCK THE DIPLOMATIC MACHINE SET IN PLACE BY MR. KISSINGER" WAS MAIN ASPECT OF FIRST DAY OF CONFERENCE. SIMONNET EMPHASIZES THE DIVISION BETWEEN THE EUROPEANS WHICH HE SAYS WAS EVIDENT SUNDAY NIGHT AND EVEN MORE SO MONDAY AND ASKS WHETHER EUROPE WILL KNOW A NEW CRISIS "THIS TIME RIGHT UNDER THE EYES OF MR. KISSINGER HIMSELF." SIMONNET COMMENTS THAT JOBERT DOES NOT SEEM TO ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO EUROPEAN DISACCORD BECAUSE FRENCH REASONING IS THAT FRANCE IS SAYING IN LOUD VOICE THAT OTHER EUROPEANS ARE THINKING QUIETLY. "FUNDAMENTALLY THEY ARE IN AGREEMENT WITH US AND FIND IT CONVENIENT TO LET FRANCE SPEAK" SAYS SIMONNET OF FRENCH REASONING. "NEVERTHELESS", HE GOES ON, "FRANCE IS VISIBLY ISOLATED" AT WASHINGTON AS THE OTHER NATIONS ARE WILLING TO SATISFY "WITH DIVERSE NUANCES" THE DESIRES OF MR. KISSINGER. AMERICAN IRRITATION HAS BEEN EXPRESSED, HE SAYS, IN LANGUAGE WHICH HAS PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED THE GERMANS WHILE THE BRITISH MEANWHILE TRY TO PLAY THE ROLE OF MEDIATORS.

2. SIMONNET COMMENTS THAT IF AMERICAN AND FRENCH DEMARCHES CONTINUE TO DEVELOP SIMULTANEOUSLY, THERE WILL BE RATHER STRIKING NUMBER OF CONFERENCES -- AT U.S. URGING, A SECOND ENERGY CONFERENCE WITH DEVELOPING NATIONS, THEN ONE WITH PRODUCERS, WHILE ON FRENCH SIDE, THERE WOULD BE EUROPEAN-ARAB AND UN MEETINGS. HE WONDERS IN CONCLUSION: "IF THE ENERGY CRISIS WERE AS SERIOUS AS ONE PRETENDS, WOULD ONE BE WATCHING SUCH A FLOW OF DIPLOMATIC MANEUVERS, THIS BATTLE FOR INFLUENCE? APPARENTLY THE MOMENT HAS NOT YET ARRIVED FOR THE SACRED UNION WITHIN THE CAMP OF THE CONSUMERS."

3. UNDER THE HEADLINE "ALONE..." LE MONDE EDITORIALIZES: "WHAT IS MOST SURPRISING ABOUT THE VOCAL OUTBURSTS NOW BEING HEARD IN WASHINGTON, IS THAT THEY STILL SURPRISE. INDEED THE QUARREL WHICH JUST TOOK PLACE UNDER MR. KISSINGER'S EYES -- AN INNER - EUROPEAN MORE THAN A EUROPEAN-AMERICAN QUARREL -- HAS DIVIDED THE COMMUNITY EVER SINCE ITS BIRTH, IN THE FIFTIES. SHOULD EUROPE BE ATLANTIC OR UNCLASSIFIED

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EUROPEAN? HAS EUROPE A RAISON D'ETRE ONLY IF IT IS PART OF A WESTERN HEMISPHERE LED BY THE U.S., OR IS IT AN ENTITY IN ITSELF? THAT IS THE QUESTION. AND EACH EUROPEAN CRISIS, EACH IMPORTANT DECISION RAISES IT AGAIN... A TOTAL LACK OF HYPOCRISY MUST BE ACCREDITED TO MR. KISSINGER.

EVEN BEFORE HE WAS AT THE HEAD OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND BEFORE THE OIL CRISIS, HE DID NOT CONCEAL THAT THE OBJECTIVE OF

HIS 'NEW ATLANTIC CHARTER' WAS TO INTEGRATE THE U.S. IN THE POLITICAL DECISION PROCESS OF THE COMMUNITY... THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE PROVIDES HIM WITH THE IDEAL GROUND FOR PROVING THE EFFICIENCY OF HIS POLICY. LAST WEEK THE NINE DEFINED A COMMON POSITION;IT SAMASHED INTO PIECES THE FIRST TIME MR. KISSINGER RAISED HIS EYEBROWS. AND IT IS IN HIS PRESENCE THAT THE EUROPEANS RE-DISCUSS THEIR POSITION... MR. JOBERT CAN REPEAT 'IF THERE IS ONLY ONE LEFT, I'LL BE THE ONE'. BEING ALONE WHEN ONE IS CONVINCED OF THE RIGHTNESS OF HIS CAUSE, WHY NOT INDEED? WHY 'MAKE EUROPE'... IF THIS EXPRESSION MEANS THE TRANSFORMATION OF A DE FACTO DEPENDENCE INTO A DE JURE DEPENDENCE. THIS LONELINESS IS, HOWEVER, ONLY JUSTIFIED IF IT IS NOT SYSTEMATIC, IF MR. JOBERT'S REFUSALS ARE NOT A GOAL BUT AN ARM. IN THIS CONNECTION, ONE CAN REGRET THAT THE AIM OF FRENCH POLICY ARE NOT SUFFICIENTLY PERCEIVED, AND THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S WORDS AREN'T ALWAYS FOLLOWED BY ACTS, OR EVEN WORST, HIS ACTS SOMETIMES CONTRADICT HIS INTENTIONS... AFTER PRAISING THE BENEFITS OF A EUROPEAN MONETARY UNION, FRANCE WITHOUT REAL CONSULTATION WITH HER PARTNERS, HAS PULLED OUT, PERHAPS TEMPORARILY, CERTAINLY NOT WILLINGLY, AND NO ONE KNOWS FOR HOW LONG. FACED WITH THE U.S., MR. JOBERT WOULD HAVE A MUCH STRONGER MOBILIZING POWER OVER THE COMMUNITY MEMBERS IF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN ABLE TO PREVENT THIS FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT. THAT EUROPE BE EUROPEAN, THAT IT TENDS TO FIND ITS INDEPENDENCE, FINE. BUT IT CAN ONLY REACH THIS GOAL IF GOVERNMENTS, STARTING WITH THE PARIS GOVERNMENT, ACCEPT A STRICT COMMUNITY DISCIPLINE."IRWIN

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